

Claims

- [c1] 1. A marketplace system operated by a sponsor, the system interconnecting users having respective workstations and transmitting messages among the users, the system comprising means responsive to first inputs from the sponsor for authorizing participation by particular users; the system comprising means responsive to second inputs from users indicative of their wish to communicate, send, or receive data from the marketplace system; the system responsive to a second input from a first user indicative of a wish to send first data by validating said first data, and in the event the first data are validated, receiving the first data; the system responsive to receipt of the first data by returning second data to an inbox or output device on the workstation of the first user.
- [c2] 2. A network of networks comprising workstations associated with users, the network comprising communicative means communicating messages among the users, each message containing information indicative of a putative sender, each workstation comprising working memory and further comprising means keeping program files on the workstation isolated from data files on the workstation, the means blocking a received message from being allowed into the working memory thereof except after verification that the message was originated by an authorized user and is of a predetermined valid message type; the network further comprising means echoing the received message back to its putative sender, the means further responsive to a repudiation notice from the putative sender for deleting the message.
- [c3] 3. A marketplace network of networks interconnecting marketplace systems for passage of messages each message having a sender and a recipient, each marketplace system having associated users and having a respective arrangement of user identifiers, user names, and passwords, each marketplace system having an associated system identifier; the marketplace systems characterized in that a user may use the same identifier, user name, and password in more than one marketplace system; each message comprising information indicative of the system identifier of the system

within which the message originates; the network further characterized in that the sender of a message includes a specific system identifier, whereby the network sends the message to the recipient as a user on the system associated with the specific system identifier.

[c4] 4. A marketplace network of networks interconnecting marketplace systems for passage of messages each message having a message type, a sender and a recipient, each marketplace system having associated users and having a respective arrangement of user identifiers, user names, and passwords, each marketplace system having an associated system identifier; the marketplace systems characterized in that a user may use the same identifier, user name, and password in more than one marketplace system; the network comprising means transferring messages from a first marketplace system to a second marketplace system, the network further comprising means responsive to the event of a message's message type not being allowed by the second marketplace system for communicating a notice of failure of delivery, the notice comprising information indicative of message types compatible with the marketplace system of the sender and with the marketplace system of the recipient.

[c5] 5. A network of networks system interconnecting marketeers and users, each user having a hard drive, the system comprising means receiving permissions and withdrawals of permission from particular users with respect to particular marketeers, the system further comprising means permitting transmission of a cookie from a marketer to a user's data storage/retrieval memory only if the marketer has permission to do so and only if such permission has not yet been withdrawn.

[c6] 6. A network of networks interconnecting users entering and receiving messages, the network comprising means maintaining a complete audit trail for every message entered or received.

[c7] 7. A network of networks interconnecting users sending and receiving messages, the network defining designations of subsets of all users

